

What is claimed is:

1. A method for simplifying control of a group of computer programs which access computer system resources held in computer system memory, the method including the steps of:
- providing connection services to each computer program within the group of computer programs to enable access to a shared access memory;
- providing a set of command target qualifiers including at least one command target qualifier indicating that a command should be applied to all members of a group of computer programs; and
- providing a set of scope definitions for association with respective computer system resources to determine the scope of access and change rights for the computer system resources and for determining whether the computer system resources should be stored in said shared access memory, and for identifying computer system resources to which a command is to be applied by reference to their associated scope definitions.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein respective ones of said scope definitions are associated with respective computer system resources in response to setting of a scope parameter during a computer system resource creation operation.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said set of scope definitions include a shared scope option for association with respective computer system resources, said shared scope definition determining that the respective computer system resources should be stored in said shared access memory and should be accessible to all computer programs in said group.
4. A method according to claim 3, including the step of saving a computer system resource to said shared access memory in response to specifying a shared scope during creation of the computer system resource.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said set of scope definitions include a group

scope option for association with respective computer system resources, said group scope definition determining that the respective computer system resources should be stored in said shared access memory and that copies of said respective computer system resources should be created and stored in local storage of each computer program in said group.

6. A command interface for a computer program for issuing commands for administration of the computer program and other computer programs which have been defined as a group of computer programs, the command interface providing a set of commands having the following parameters:

a command target qualifier, wherein particular parameter values of the command target qualifier determine which computer programs of the group the command should be applied to; and

a scope definition, wherein particular parameter values of the scope definition are associatable with respective computer system resources and wherein a parameter value of the scope definition determines which of the respective computer system resources the command should be applied to by reference to their associated command target qualifier parameter values.

7. A command interface according to claim 6 wherein the set of commands includes a define command for defining a new computer system resource, wherein a scope definition parameter value specified in said define command is associated with said computer system resource in response to issuing the command and wherein the scope definition parameter value determines the scope of access and change rights for the computer system resource and determines whether the computer system resource should be stored in a shared access memory which is accessible by all computer programs in said group or should be stored in unshared local memory of said individual computer program indicated by said command target qualifier.

8. A command interface according to claim 6, wherein said command target qualifier has at least a first specifiable parameter value indicating that a command should be applied to all members of the group of computer programs and a second specifiable parameter value indicating

4 that a command should be applied to an individual computer program of the group of computer
5 programs.

1 9. A data processing system including:

2 at least one computer program defined as a member of a group of computer programs;
3 a command interface for issuing commands for administration of the at least one
4 computer program and other members of the group of computer programs, wherein the command
5 interface provides a set of commands having the following parameters:

6 a command target qualifier, wherein particular parameter values of the command
7 target qualifier determine which computer programs of the group the command should be applied
8 to; and

9 a scope definition, wherein particular parameter values of the scope definition are
10 associatable with respective computer system resources and wherein a scope definition parameter
11 value specified in a command determines which of the respective computer system resources the
12 command should be applied to by reference to the computer system resources' associated
13 command target qualifier parameter values.

14 10. A data processing system according to claim 9 including:

15 means for accessing a first memory from said one computer program, which first
16 memory is inaccessible from other members of the group of computer programs; and

17 means for accessing a second memory from said one computer program, which
18 second memory is accessible from all members of the group of computer programs;

19 wherein the set of commands includes a define command for defining a new
20 computer system resource, wherein a scope definition parameter value specified in said define
21 command is associated with said computer system resource in response to issuing the command
22 and wherein the scope definition parameter value determines the scope of access and change
rights for the computer system resource including determining whether the computer system
resource should be stored in said second memory which is accessible by all computer programs
of said group or should be stored in unshared memory of the individual computer program

13 indicated by said command target qualifier.

1 11. A computer program product comprising computer readable program code recorded
2 on a computer readable recording medium, the program code including a command interface for
3 issuing commands for administration of the computer program code, and other computer
4 programs which have been defined as a group of computer programs, the command interface
5 providing a set of commands having the following parameters:

6 a command target qualifier, wherein particular parameter values of the command
7 target qualifier determine which computer programs of the group the command should be applied
8 to; and

9 a scope definition, wherein particular parameter values of the scope definition are
10 associatable with respective computer system resources and wherein a parameter value of the
11 scope definition determines which of the respective computer system resources the command
12 should be applied to by reference to their associated command target qualifier parameter values.

13 12. A method for controlling a group of computer programs which access computer
system resources held in computer system memory, the method including the steps of:

1 in response to a command being issued which specifies an operation and a command
2 target qualifier, determining which computer programs within said group the operation is to be
3 performed on;

4 in response to the command specifying a scope definition, determining which
5 computer system resources of the determined computer programs the operation is to be
6 performed on; and

7 performing the operation on the determined resources of the determined computer
8 programs.
9

10 13. A method according to claim 12, including the steps of:

1 in response to a define command being issued which specifies a define operation for
2 defining a computer system resource and which specifies a command target qualifier,
3

determining which computer programs within said group the define operation is to be performed on; and

in response to the define command specifying a scope definition, performing the define operation and associating the specified scope definition with the computer system resource, thereby to determine the scope of access and change rights for the computer system resources and to determine whether the computer system resources should be stored in shared access or unshared memory, and storing said computer system resource in said determined memory.

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